

# Microsoft IT Academy Certification Roadmap

Microsoft IT Academy (ITA) Program provides students with the technology skills they need to be successful in their education and careers. With Microsoft Certification, students can validate their skills that will be beneficial in a variety of career paths including engineering, business, and technology. ITA members receive price reductions on Microsoft Certification exams so they can enable skills validation through certification for their students globally.

## Start by choosing your area of study and certification path

### Secondary Students:

- ★ **Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)**  
MOS certification validates mastery of Microsoft Office skills that are valuable for a wide range of jobs and other life pursuits. Earning MOS certification proves you have the ability to use Office applications for different on-the-job needs. Becoming a Microsoft Office Specialist provides valuable distinction to help you enter higher education or the workforce.
- **Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA)**  
MTA certification validates understanding of basic technology concepts in software development and information technology. Earning MTA certification proves you have a foundation of knowledge about technology along with the capability and commitment to do entry-level IT jobs. Becoming a Microsoft Technology Associate can give you a strong base to support further learning to be a professional software developer or an IT Pro. Earning an MTA certification is recommended but not required to pursue the higher technology certifications described below.

### For Post-Secondary Students and Professionals:

- ★ **Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate (MCSA)**  
MCSA certification validates mastery of the core technical skills required to build a sustainable career. Earning MCSA certification while in school enables students to develop professional competency in a classroom setting. Pursuing an MCSA certification is recommended for those with access to hands-on practical experience and a foundation of core knowledge about information technology. An MCSA certification is required in order to become an MCSE.
- ★ **Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer (MCSA)**  
MCSA certification is recommended for professionals or students in a 4-year academic program. The MCSA builds off the MTA certifications for software development. Earning MCSA certification while in school enables students to acquire job-like software development experience in a classroom setting. Becoming a Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer will prepare you to be competitive for mid-level software development jobs.
- ★ **Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert (MCSE)**  
MCSE certification demonstrates your ability to build innovative professional solutions across multiple technologies, both on-premises and in the cloud. Earning MCSE certification demonstrates readiness for complex, real-world IT workplace requirements for Device Management, Messaging, Private Cloud, Communication Server Infrastructure, SharePoint, Desktop Infrastructure, Data Platform, and Business Intelligence solutions.

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